

Shasta-Trinity Backcountry Trail Crew
April 2013 Overview
Supervisor: Julian Wischniewski

The Shasta-Trinity Backcountry Trail Crew finally met at the California Conservation Corps' Placer Center in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. 15 strangers from all over the country – from Southern California and the Great Northwest, to Florida and Rhode Island, New Orleans and New York – our crew was excited to finally meet up in Placer to begin a weeklong orientation to the standards and expectations of the Backcountry Trails Program. Topics ranged from health and safety trainings (foot care!), EEO, journaling, our place in the AmeriCorps network, sobriety, and a few teasers of what to expect this season of hard work through some of the Western World's untouched wilderness areas. Nightly sewing sessions to get our uniforms in tip top shape have been full of laughs, stories and excitement for what's to come.

Our first home will be in Big Basin State Park, a beautiful coastal-mountain park with wise, old Redwoods, crashing waves off in the distance to lull us to sleep, and a wonderful staff to orient us in the time-tested ways of trail work. I am excited for the crew to meet Chris Pereira and his trail crew. Doug, our cook, will provide legendary gourmet meals after long days of hiking and grueling work. We will be brushing out and logging out trails, building bridges, and cleaning out drains along the trail. I anticipate the first week to be full of learning opportunities, not only on the grade, but in camp –we'll pay close attention to the smallest details that make life comfortable over the next 5.5 months. As we learn these methods that keep the Backcountry Trails Program alive, we've been getting to know each other and have begun setting a strong foundation for building a healthy community.

We are:

Camron Abbott, Ashland, OR

Jason Antinora, CCC Pamona

Stella Blashock, St. Augustine, FL

Cameron Dyer, CCC Napa

Christian Enriquez, CCC Greenwood

Emma Lundberg, Saugus, MA

Ian McDonald, CCC Los Padres

Mark Moore, CCC Inland Empire

Connor Ross, Portland, OR

Nicole Sahabian, Los Angeles, CA

Devin Stacey, Ashland, OR

Stefan Tsourovakas, Oyster Bay, NY

Ashley Weil, New Orleans, LA

Timothy Williams, Baltimore, MD

Daniel Schmidt, Rhode Island

Curriculum:

April was filled with the action-packed introductions to the many aspects of what to expect in Backcountry. From proper ergonomics (thanks to Anna Asp and Agnes Vianzon), where the crew learned proper back-saving posture when swinging a tool, or picking up a granola bar wrapper, to the various aspects of health and safety. Everyone was drilled and prepared to stay clean, sober, healthy, informed, and happy through various trainings led by Tony V. and Tony C., Tim Warren from EEO, and Sierra Rescue (Wilderness First Aid). Packer Mike Morse gave an introduction to packing stock in the wilderness and this led to more discussions on wilderness ethics and rules, including the principles of Leave No Trace. Upon our arrival to Big Basin, topics from fire safety and starting, proper pack packing, map and compass use, and a continual safety discussion are in store.

Thank You!

So many people have worked very hard to make all of this possible for the Shasta-T. The fact this program has been running for 35 years is indication enough that there is dedication on so many levels to keep the Backcountry around for another 35. The faces may from time to time, but the support remains strong. We'd like to wholeheartedly thank the following:

Placer Center: Thanks to all the cooks for feeding our crews. You provide the fuel to help us through the day. Thanks to those who volunteered to drive to pick up corpsmembers and bring them here on such a short notice. Props to the office staff letting us print, call, and type up this report.

Fortuna Center: Home of the BCTP, thanks to Roxie and Debbie for ensuring our paperwork is up to snuff. Thanks to Larry Notheis for stopping in and visiting the crews. Kimberly Phan, your workload is legendary. Thanks for helping us stay connected with all that is AmeriCorps.

CCC HQ: Thanks to Marcia and Kevin for training the supervisors and providing all of the necessary tools to incorporate health and safety in our everyday lives in the Backcountry. We hope to see you out on the trail one day!

Special Guests: A big thanks to BCTP elder and CCC Director David Muraki for your leadership and support for the Backcountry Program. Thanks to Mary Ellen Ardoway, CEO of the Corps Network and David Smith, Chief of Programs and Strategies at NCSIL for visiting the crews. For your words and

inspiration, we'd also like to thank Bob Griffith, for his service during the pivotal times of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

BCTP: May our seasons this summer be safe, productive and full of healthy adventures. Karlson and Agnes, thank you both for your support and experience. We all look forward to having you guys out. We'll save a place around the fire at night and a pick for the next day.